

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are under consideration in the present application.

Claims 1-3, 7-11 and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,875,110 to Kazama et al. (Kazama); and claims 4-6 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazama.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for conducting telephone interviews with Applicant's representative on April 26, 2006 and subsequent follow-up interviews. The following remarks summarize the substance of these interviews where applicant's representative provided additional explanation and arguments for distinguishing the claimed invention from Kazama. As discussed during the interviews, the Examiner agreed to further consider the clarifying amendment to claims 1 and 9, as well as the arguments presented during the interviews as set forth below.

As explained in the Amendment filed June 24, 2005 and Response filed March 2, 2006, and further clarified during the subsequent interviews with the Examiner, as noted above, Applicant's independent claim 1 provides a head drum assembly comprising a unique combination of features, including, *inter alia*, a rotary drum comprising an inner surface facing the shaft of the assembly and an outer circumferential surface opposite to the inner surface, and a motor rotor provided opposite to the motor stator, the motor rotor comprising a rotor case and a rotor magnet attached directly to the rotor case, the rotor case being directly bonded to the outer circumferential surface of the rotary drum (see Applicant's claim 1). On the other hand, Applicant's independent claim 9 provides a method for manufacturing a head drum assembly

comprising a unique combination of method steps, including, *inter alia*, bonding the rotor case of the motor rotor directly to the outer circumferential surface of the rotary drum whose inner surface faces the shaft of the assembly.

As noted in applicant's previous Amendment and Response, and further explained during the interviews with the Examiner, Kazama discloses a motor rotor (which includes a rotor magnet 18 and a rotor yoke 19) mounted on the rotary member 75 **by means of a first screw 12** which fixes rotor yoke 19 to the lower portion of rotary member 75. Likewise, rotary member 75 is fixedly mounted on the rotary sleeve 4 **by means of a second screw 12** which fixes rotary member 75 to the upper portion of rotary sleeve 4. This arrangement is repeated in Figs 7, 8, 11, 13 and 14 of Kazama which **show the screws** (notably, the screws are not labeled as in Fig.1) that fix rotor yoke 19 to rotary member 75 and rotary member 75 to rotary sleeve 4. In a different arrangement shown in Figs. 20A and 20B of Kazama, rotor yoke 19 is fixedly mounted on rotary sleeve 4 along with cylindrical yoke 22 also **by means of a screw** (not labeled), which fixes rotor yoke 19 and cylindrical yoke 22 to the lower portion of rotary sleeve 4.

Kazama does not disclose, teach or suggest, fastening its motor rotor (consisting of "a rotor magnet 18 and a rotor yoke 19" (*see Id.*, col. 3, lines 9 and 10)) **directly** to the rotary sleeve 4. Instead, Kazama teaches the use of an intermediate "rotary member 75" such that rotor yoke 19, which supports rotor magnet 18, is fastened by means of a screw 12 to the rotary member 75, and in turn, the rotary member 75 is fastened by means of another screw 12 to the rotary sleeve 4 (*see Id.*, col. 3, lines 3-11). Furthermore, Kazama discloses that fastening of the members with screws 12 means that the members are "detachably mounted" (*see Id.*, col. 4, lines 27-32).

That is, a careful examination of Kazama's disclosure shows that Kazama does not disclose, teach or suggest combination of features, as recited in claim 1, and method steps, as recited in claim 9, which comprise bonding a rotor case **directly to the rotary drum's outer circumferential surface opposite to the inner surface** which faces the shaft. Instead, in Kazama, rotor yoke 19 of the motor rotor is **fastened with a screw 12 to the lower portion** of rotary member 75, and rotary member 75 is **fastened with another screw 12 to the upper portion** of rotary sleeve 4 whose inner surface faces center shaft 1 (*see Id.*, Fig. 1).

Accordingly, Applicant's independent claims 1 and 9, as well as the dependent claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 15-18 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims 1 and 9), are not anticipated by (i.e., are not readable on) Kazama at least for these reasons. Likewise, Applicant's dependent claims 4-6 and 12-14 would not have been obvious from Kazama at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to their respective base claims 1 and 9.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claim 1-18 are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
Appln. No.: 10/667,500

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 18-2220. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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